

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

98. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing cytology slides, the method comprising:

providing a slide preparation device comprising a first cover having an inside surface, a second cover having an inside surface, said first and second covers hingedly secured to each other so as to be foldable into a book form, an absorbent material mounted to the inside surface of the first cover, ~~wherein the~~ a filter overlaying the absorbent material and a plurality of slides attached to the inside surface of the second cover;

applying an aliquot of cytology sample to the filter; and
closing the book form so that the filter containing the aliquot contacts the slides;

~~10~~ 9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~98~~, wherein the aliquot comprises a cellular sample in a liquid-based medium ~~a Universal Collection Medium~~.

~~11~~10. (Currently Amended) A device for facilitating the preparation of a plurality of cytology slides, the device comprising:

- a cover having an inside surface;
- a base having an inside surface;
- an interposed hinge, said cover and base hingeably secured ~~to~~by the hinge so as to be foldable into a book form capable of an open and closed position;
- a plurality of absorbent material mounted on the inside surface of the cover;
- a filter, the filter overlaying the absorbent material; and
- a plurality of cytology slides, each cytology slide corresponding to one of the absorbent material mounted on the cover, wherein the cytology slides are mounted to the inside surface of the base, each slide being positioned on the inside surface of the base to contact the corresponding absorbent material and the filter when the book form is in the closed position.

~~12~~11. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~11~~10, wherein the slides are removeably mounted on the inside surface of the base.

~~13~~12. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~12~~11, wherein the slides are removeably mounted to a slide carrier, the slide carrier is removeably mounted to the inside surface of the base.

~~14~~13. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~12~~11, wherein the slides are removeably mounted to a slide carrier, the slide carrier is hingeably mounted to the inside surface of the base.

~~15~~14. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~11~~10, wherein the absorbent material is mounted to a strip, the strip is removeably mounted to the inside surface of the cover.

~~16~~15. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~11~~10, wherein the filter includes a plurality of individual filters, each filter corresponding to one of the absorbent materials.

~~17~~16. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~11~~10, wherein the cover is weighted to effectively transfer a sample applied to the absorbent material and filter to the slide when the book form is in the closed position.

~~18~~17. (Currently Amended) A slide carrier suitable for use with the device of claim ~~11~~10, said slide carrier including a plurality of slots for holding a plurality of cytology slides, wherein the slide carrier is removeably mounted to the base of the device.

~~19~~18. (Currently Amended) A strip suitable for use with the device of claim ~~11~~10, said strip comprising means for holding ~~the~~ a plurality of absorbent material, ~~wherein the strip is and means for removeably mounted~~ mounting the strip to the cover of the device of claim 10.

~~20~~19. (Cancelled)

~~2120~~. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~5~~10 wherein the interposed hinged attachment is formed by a spine interposed between the ~~first~~cover and ~~second covers~~base.

~~2221~~. (Cancelled)

~~2322~~. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~9~~8 further comprising applying pressure to the first and second covers in the closed position.